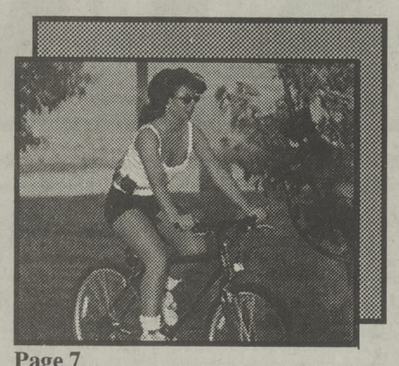
5-15-97

Valley STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Volume 50, Issue 14

Thursday, May 15, 1997



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? Who are the *Valley Star* Student and Teacher of the Year?

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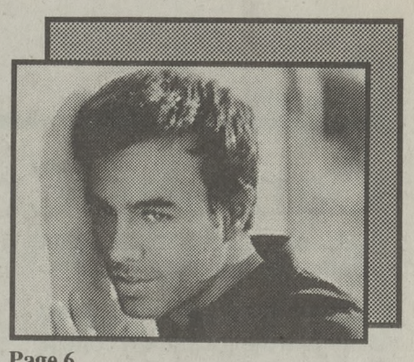

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HIGHLIGHTS

MUSIC

The LAVC **Campus Concert Series** will present Zephyr Vocal Ensemble Stories, poems and music of childhood Friday at 8 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall. General admission is $12.00, students and seniors are $8.00.

ACADEMICS

The LAVC **Commencement Ceremony** for eligible students will begin promptly at 4 p.m. May 22 at Monarch Stadium. Robing for graduates will begin at 2:30 p.m. in Monarch Hall. A reception for students and their families will immediately follow the ceremony on the stadium field at 5:30 p.m.

Final examination schedules can be found in the Spring '97 class schedule. One day per week classes will hold finals at their regular meeting after May 14. Less than full semester classes will hold finals at the last scheduled meeting.

The Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Association of Record Managers and Administrators **scholarship applications** are available in CC-100-A. Two $250 scholarships are available to those who meet the criteria.

Drexel University's College of Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Boston University's College of Engineering offer **scholarship opportunities** to transfer students who meet the core requirements. Scholarships range from $3,000 to $8,000. For more information, contact the office of Student Services at (818) 778-0243.

Math Lab final exam hours will be held in the Math and Science Building, room 106, May 15 and 19, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., May 16, 20 and 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and May 20, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Two summer sessions will be held at Valley for summer '97. The first session will begin June 16 and end July 25. The second session will begin June 30 and end August 8. Telephone registration for continuing students is from May 12 to June 12, new and returning students May 26 to June 12. In-person enrollment dates for all students for the summer sessions are Session 1-June 9 to June 13, Session 2-June 9 to June 26.

Math competency exams to meet the math competency requirement for an associate degree will be held in Administration 125 May 19 at 2 p.m. No appointment is necessary for the test which takes 60 minutes. The test may be taken only once.

HEALTH

Free and anonymous HIV testing will be available today at the Student Health Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information call (818) 780-0652.

ENTERTAINMENT

The **Valley Heritage Fair** will be held at the LAVC campus athletic fields from May 23 to 26. Carnival attractions will open May 23 at 3 p.m. to midnight and May 24-26 from noon to midnight.

The **Annual Faculty Dinner Party** will be held at Sportsmen's Lodge May 22 at 6:30 p.m. Dinner price is $28 per person. Contact Rose Drummond at (818) 778-0458 for more information.

POLICE WATCH

A backpack was stolen from Lot E May 5 between 7 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. The backpack and contents, including books, swimming goggles and personal effects were valued at $226.

To contact Campus Police, dial #30 from any campus pay phone.

Information provided by Campus Police.

Congratulations Graduates!

■ **College Event: Scholars prepare to graduate with honors as commencement plans get underway.**

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Graduation Day is nearly here and commencement plans are well underway.

The 48th Valley College graduating class will soon march the Monarch Stadium field May 22. The class consists of 834 graduates from the Fall '96 and Spring '97 semesters.

Graduates Lisa Gerard and Michael McNab lead the highest of the Summa Cum Laude honors, each with a cumulative grade point average of a perfect 4.0.

The following 18 students have achieved a 3.9 G.P.A and will also graduate Summa Cum Laude: Haroutioun Arslanian, Richard Bell, Nancy Gadney, Samantha Giles, Jason Goldberg, Veronika Haddad, Bernard Halabi, Sanae Hironaka, Balvinder Kaur, Fereshteh Kiani, Chin Kim, Oksana Levitskaya, Ewa Morelli, Monica Quezada, Kristin Seehase, Dawn Taylor and Stephen Thume.

See Graduation Page 2

Commencement Day Schedule

Thursday, May 22, 1997

2:30 p.m. Faculty Reception - Fireside Room
2:30 p.m. Graduate Robing - Monarch Hall
3:30 p.m. Processional Assembly
4:00 p.m. Commencement Ceremony - Monarch Stadium
5:30 p.m. Graduate Reception - Stadium Field

- Caps, Gowns and Tassels Available in Campus Book Store
- Invitation Post Cards Available in Student Services Office

Linda Thomas/Valley Star

Graduating students Patricia Tejeda and Jouse Kuy try on their caps and gowns at the campus book store.

LAVC Dancers Reach for the Spotlight

Maria Ivey/Valley Star

Valley College dancers strut their stuff, and then some, at the annual Spring Dance Concert Saturday.

See Story Page 5

Phi Theta Kappa Fights for Improved Campus Lighting

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Newly chartered honor society Phi Theta Kappa has already begun work to improve campus conditions at Valley College.

The number one college-related project this semester for the group has been to improve outdoor lighting for the campus, PTK President Robert Lane said.

"The lighting on campus is definitely not happening," Lane said. "It's not sufficient enough for night students, it seems unsafe. Adequate lighting is something we need."

Lane, along with other PTK representatives, has met with grounds director Dave Ogne to attempt to remedy the situation and get flood lights up in problem areas, Lane said.

"The Arts Building is very dark and some areas by the bungalows and be-

See Lighting Page 2

Valley Heritage Fair Set for Summer

■ **Campus Event: Festival fun planned for Memorial holiday weekend.**

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carnival rides, arts, crafts and live stage entertainment will kick off the summer holiday for the whole family at the 1997 Valley Heritage Fair May 23-26 at Valley College.

"It will be a weekend to celebrate the richness which our American culture enjoys due to the diversity of our heritages," event chairman Richard Hardman said.

Multi-cultural foods, arts, crafts, performing arts, music and entertainment will be featured at the fair, along with kiddy rides, games, pony rides, clowns and acrobats.

"The All American Heritage Foundation is a non-profit charitable foundation dedicated to helping our culturally diverse community develop a sense of oneness," Hardman said. "Profits will be put back into the community to further the cause of unity and teach people to be good American citizens."

Proceeds will provide funds for educational materials, equipment and special programs to further this cause, Hardman said.

The fair will begin May 23 at 3 p.m. until 12 a.m. and continue May 24-26 noon until midnight. The fair is family-focused, all ages are welcome and an estimated 20,000 attendees are projected, the foundation reported. There is a $5.95 entry fee per person plus a non-perishable food item which will be donated to a local food pantry. All carnival rides are included in the entry fee and parking is free.

Linda Thomas/Valley Star

LAVC Police Officer Michael Habicht points out surveillance areas.

Campus Crime Rate Drops

■ **Campus Condition:** LAVC Police report a 60 percent drop in the campus crime rate since the February stakeout nabbed suspected criminals.

By ALICE GARABEDIAN
STAR REPORTER

The crime rate at Valley has dropped significantly since a stakeout in February which caught an alleged criminal and his accomplice suspected of breaking into cars, police said Wednesday.

From the beginning of the semester to Feb. 5, there were a total of 26 crimes committed in less than a month, compared to a total of 47 committed in the four months following.

The crime rate dropped from an average of 9 crimes per week before the stakeout to an average of 3 crimes per week after the stakeout, Officer Gail Tam said, which is about a 66 percent drop in the campus crime rate.

Extra student patrol and extra officers in the field are the reasons for the decrease, Officer Michael Habicht said.

See Crime Page 2

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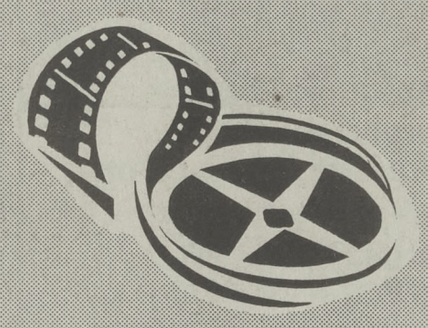

Lights, camera and action behind the scenes.

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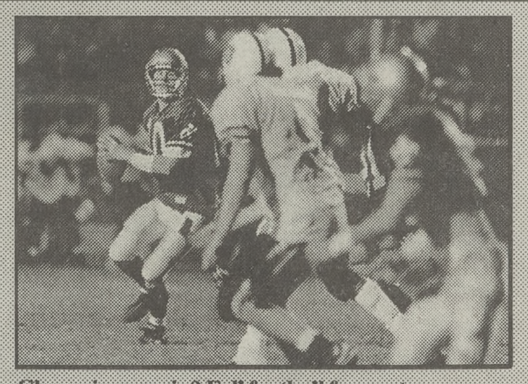

Champions again? Fall football forecast.

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Campus Crime Dives

Continued from Page 1

"We consider this the safest campus in the community college district," Habicht said. "When any problem comes up, it can be handled immediately and if need be, we get assistance from the LAPD."

Valley College Police officers also have been working with the school police at Grant High School and their problems have also decreased, Habicht said.

"I suggest to all the students and faculty, that if they see any suspicious behavior, not to hesitate to call campus police. We can respond within seconds on the campus, and if we need LAPD's assistance, we work in liaison with them and they will come in," Officer Habicht said.

To contact campus police from any campus pay phone, dial #30.

After the suspects were caught in February, police said they think the pair were related to a boost in car break-ins two years ago.

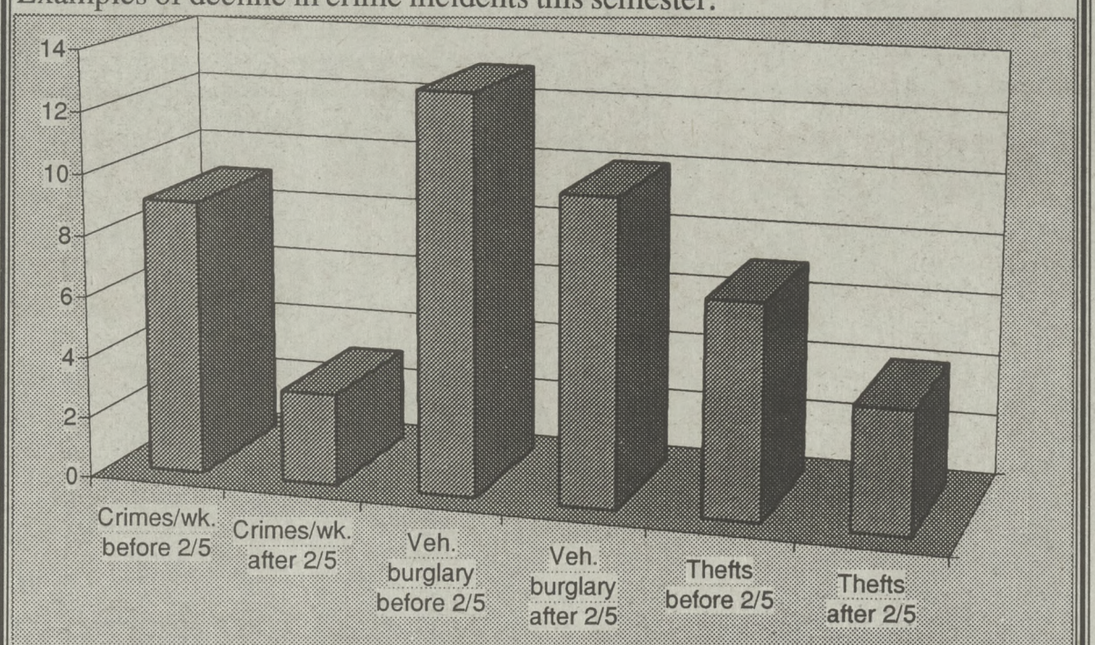
Those crimes were made using a screwdriver, the same tool which was used earlier this semester, police said.

"Since these two individuals went to jail we have had no screw driver pry locks and our campus crime rate has considerably decreased," Habicht said.

"The crime rate is so low that now we clean up the graffiti as fast is it goes on the wall. There has been a great improvement in assistance, even from the students and faculty, calling us to inform us of problems," Habicht said.

Valley College Crime - Spring '97

Examples of decline in crime incidents this semester:



Graduation Day Nears

Continued from Page 1

Forty-one students will graduate Magna Cum Laude with a minimum 3.7 G.P.A. and 114 will graduate Cum Laude with a minimum 3.3 G.P.A.

Guest speakers for the occasion will include Assemblyman Robert Hertzberg, District Trustee Julia Wu and Vice Chancellor Bonnie James. Valley College President Dr. Tyree Wieder, Vice President Dr. Sue Carleo, Vice President Mary Ann Breckell, Academic Senate Chairman Jack Sterk and Dean of Student Yasmin Delahoussaye will also participate in the ceremony.

The theme of the commencement will be: "Lifelong learning: The path to the 21st century," Delahoussaye, who has planned the event, said.

Graduates Holly Prevost, Robert Lane and Erin Walters have been selected by a faculty committee to speak about the commencement theme at the ceremony.

Marshals for the procession of graduates are Profs. Yancy Duncan and Pat Allen, chosen by the Associated Student Union. Dr. Mary Ellen Pangonis and Dr. William Elder will serve as faculty procession marshals.

Special pomp and circumstance for the event will include a huge balloon arc over the commencement platform spelling out "97" which will be released at the close of the ceremony. A professional photo of each commencement graduate will be taken. A faculty reception is planned for the Fireside Room prior to the ceremony and a reception for the graduates and their families will immediately follow the ceremony on the stadium field.

Caps, gowns and tassels are now available at the bookstore while supplies last.

Students are encouraged to invite favorite instructors to attend their commencement, Delahoussaye said. Postcard invitations are available at the office of Student Services in the Campus Center.

"We have worked to get people to recognize that students have worked so hard, investing two to three years at this institution, and how important it is to them," Delahoussaye said.

Notice:

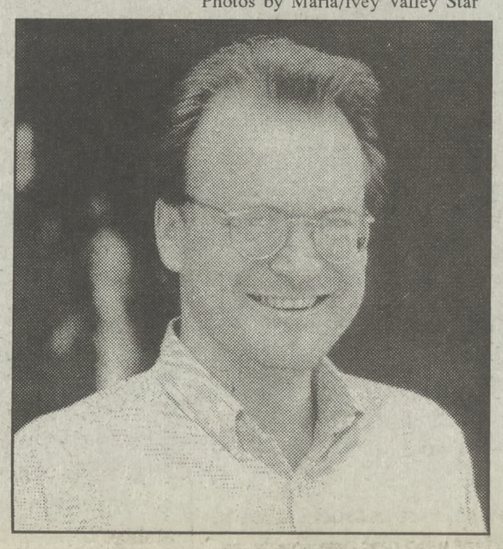
The infograph on page one of the May 8 issue accompanying the Block Grant article read $473,000 in grant funds for the math departments. The correct amount is $73,000.

Commencement Marshals

Professors Patricia Allen and Yancy Duncan have been selected by the Associated Student Union to serve as commencement marshals for the graduate procession at the Valley College graduation commencement ceremony May 22.

Photos by Maria/Ivey Valley Star

Professor Patricia Allen



Professor Yancy Duncan

Professor Allen is a sociology professor who specializes in women's studies. Allen also serves as the chairwoman of the Valley College chapter of the American Federation of Teachers and chairwoman of the College Council at LAVC.

Professor Duncan is the head of the Forensics Department, instructor in speech and communications and head coach of the internationally victorious Valley College Speech Team.

Journalism Professor Heads for South Africa

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College journalism and photography professor Roger Graham is South Africa bound to participate in a special journalism seminar in June.

The Council on International Education Exchange selected Graham from dozens of applicants nationwide to take part in the program: "The Dynamics of the New South Africa."

"The world press played a major role in bringing about freedom in South Africa," Graham said. "Now, it is important that the press continue to watch and report on the building of a new nation."

"The world press played a major role in bringing about freedom in South Africa. Now, it is important that the press continue to watch and report on the building of a new nation." - Roger Graham

The two-week seminar is hosted by the University of the Western Cape and University of Pretoria and will include a visit to the Union Buildings and President Nelson Mandela's office.

Graham said that he looks forward to the possible opportunity of meeting President Mandela during his visit.

As a professional journalist and instructor at Valley College for 30 years, Graham has reported issues concerning countless dignitaries around the nation and the world.

Honor Society Plans to Improve Lighting

Continued from Page 1

tween the buildings, also," Lane said. "Even areas that do have lights are not enough. They are too dim."

The Plant Facilities office has suggested a particular brand of energy efficient industrial outdoor lighting, but Lane said he feels they are not bright enough and flood lights are needed.

"That's the problem with these lights," Lane said. "You can't really see well. You can make out a shape, and you can't see detail until a person is right upon you."

PTK has offered to cover the cost of bulb replacement for LAVC if they put up the flood lights, Lane said. Additionally, PTK has been in touch with several area contractors requesting fixture donations, he said.

"We finally know what we need," Lane said. "Let's take it to the next step. It is a liability and there's a definite safety factor involved."

PTK also works to improve the community, member Jackie Kaufman said.

"We're working with the Arthritis Foundation over the summer," she said.

The group will volunteer to help with a festival event for the Arthritis Foundation which will focus on entertaining and encouraging children, Lane said.

Valley College Student Elected to Regional Office

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN CHIEF

Valley College student Wilma Monroe has been elected to serve as the Public Relations officer for the seventh region of community colleges for the State of California.

Monroe was elected at a recent California _____ meeting.

The region includes the Los Angeles Community College District of which Valley College is a part, as well as several other state college districts in the Southern California area.

"As public relations officer, I will coordinate events between the campuses and notify the different campuses of what is going on around the region," Monroe said.

The term of office is one year.

Monroe also serves as Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural Affairs for the Associated Student Union Executive Council of Valley College.

Services:

PLANS FOR THE SUMMER?
TAKE A COURSE IN SELF DEFENSE, AND LEARN VALUABLE LIFE PRESERVING TECHNIQUES. TRAINING IN NO FRILLS SELF DEFENSE TECHNIQUES, AND URBAN AWARENESS, GREAT WORK OUT! THIS IS NOT A LONG TERM MARTIAL ARTS CLASS BUT RATHER A SHORT TERM SELF DEFENSE CLASS WHICH TEACHES YOU URBAN AWARENESS AND SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES. TRAIN ON YOUR SCHEDULE, AT YOUR PLACE OR ANYWHERE IN THE OUTDOORS, WE COME TO YOU. JOINT MANIPULATION - HAND & PALM STRIKES - POWER KICKS - CLOSE QUARTERS COMBAT. BEGIN NOW AND UNLEASH THE POWER YOU ALREADY HAVE.
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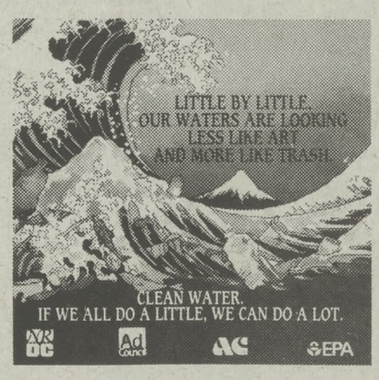
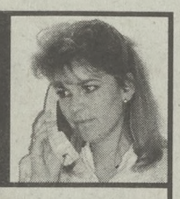

LITTLE BY LITTLE, OUR WATERS ARE LOOKING LESS LIKE ART AND MORE LIKE TRASH.
CLEAN WATER. IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, WE CAN DO A LOT.
NRDC
Ad Council
AC
EPA

A Woman's Choice



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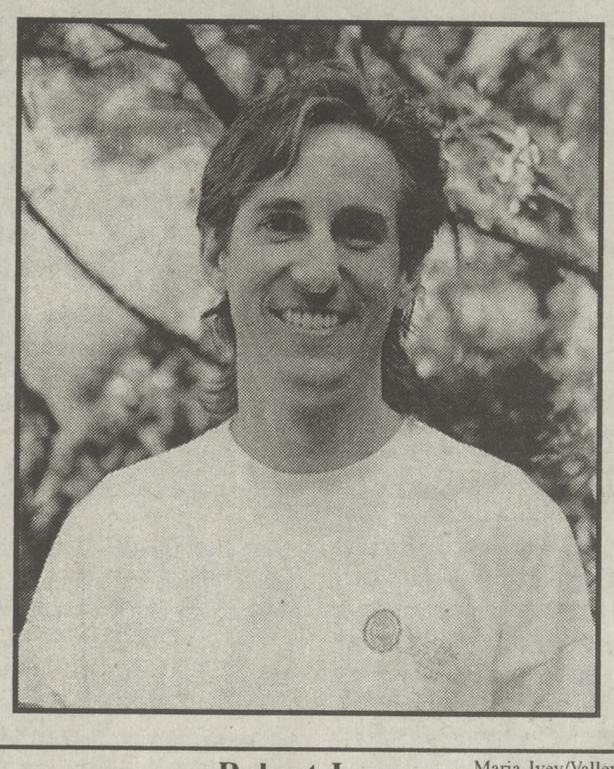
Reach for the STAR
The VALLEY STAR

Valley Star Student of the Year



Robert Lane Maria Ivey/Valley Star

By BEN ALTER
STAR REPORTER

With an already long resume, Robert Lane can add one more achievement: *Valley Star's* Student of the Year for the 1996-97 school year.

"This is absolutely incredible," Lane said. "It's exciting. Since I'm graduating, it's kind of like I'll be going out in style. It shows that all my hard work in my studies and extra-curricular activities have paid off."

Lane, a graduating student, adds this award to a list of accomplishments that include the charter president of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society at Valley, a lifetime member of the Tau Alpha Epsilon honor society and being the former president of the Associated Student Union of Valley College.

Some of his other many activities include raising money for worthy organizations such as the American Red Cross and the L.A. Valley Shelter. He also helped establish the Phi Theta Kappa honor society at Valley

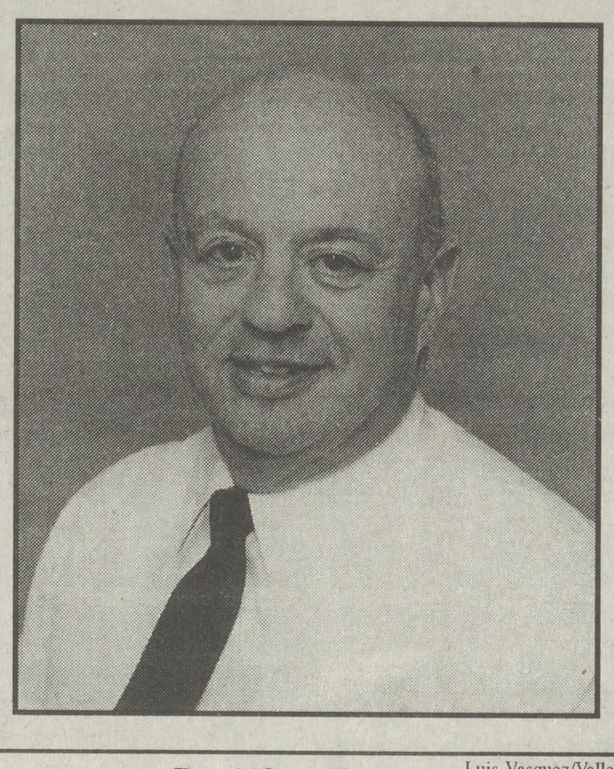
He has served on the Student Services Committee, Dean's Reception Committee, Graduation Committee, College Council and the Budget Committee.

With all of that, some might wonder how he has had time to fight for the rights of other students. He has argued to allow honor students to wear their gold cords at commencement, tutored music students, fought to uphold college policy and pushed for people in authority to respect and set an example for all students.

"I do all this because I want to give back to Valley because it's given me a lot," Lane said. "All the departments I've dealt with and administration have been very supportive."

Lane was the recipient of the LAVC 1996 Presidential Outstanding Leadership Award and has made a submission for this year's award.

Valley Star Teacher of the Year



Dr. Alfred Zucker Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Some teachers merely teach, and some teachers inspire.

It goes without wonder why Dr. Alfred Zucker, because of overwhelming majority student nominations, has been selected *Valley Star* Teacher of the Year for the 1996-97 school year.

"I love the relationships with students, inspiring students to find new ideas, inspiring students to achieve at their greatest potential possible," Zucker said.

Colleagues and students alike have said that Zucker devotes every minute of the day to his students, from early in the morning and often to late at night.

While Zucker inspires his students, he was once inspired by a Valley College instructor himself. Zucker has worked for years to fill the shoes of his personal mentor and long-time Valley professor, the late Pearl Haggard.

"When she found out she was dying of cancer and was told she had only six weeks to live, that very day she fought for full scholarships for her honor students." Zucker said.

In June of 1960, Zucker graduated as valedictorian from Valley College as a member of the first honor class at Valley.

"At graduation, she predicted someday I would teach in her classroom, use her materials and sit at her desk," Zucker said. "Over the years, all three predictions came true."

Zucker sits at her refurbished desk today.

On her death bed, Haggard's last request was made to Zucker and his classmates.

"Do for your students what I've done for you,' she told us," Zucker said. "That's what I live my life for. She magnificently inspired us to the highest potential of our academic ability."

Zucker holds bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees in English and also holds degrees in history and speech.

He conducts post-doctoral studies at Harvard University every summer in Colonial American Literature. He always planned to return to Valley College, he said, where he has taught for many years.

Zucker was recently honored at the UCLA Faculty Honors Day for his contribution in the achievement of Valley College transfer students in upper level courses.

"When I see a student take off, a student who was previously unsure, achieve something he didn't think he could - those are my most memorable moments, and they happen every day," he said.

Zucker is presently chairman of the English Department, professor in English and faculty sponsor of the Phi Theta Kappa and Tau Alpha Epsilon honor societies at Valley. He was president of TAE at Valley for the 1959-60 school year.

"I learn as much from my students as I give to them," he said. "It's a complete interplay."

In addition to literature, Zucker harbors a love for classical music. He has a musical family, including three grandchildren. His son is singing in the famed Carnegie Hall in New York this summer.

"I believe there's a purpose for everyone to discover," he said. "Find that purpose and fulfill it completely."

The greatest role of a teacher is to inspire, he said, and the greatest goal of a teacher is to build self-esteem in his students.

"I tell my students, no matter what, always strive toward your goals," he said. "Never give up and you will achieve them."

Quote Collection

About Robert Lane...

"Robert Lane is Valley College."

"He has an excellent trajectory as a student and has always been involved very successfully in student activities."

"He is an excellent leader."

"He has done so much for this campus, he fights for the students and helps both teachers and students."

"He has worked in every Associated Student Union Group."

"He works hard for student events on campus and he is self motivated."

"He's very dedicated to the Student Government."

"Robert Lane has consistently not only been a straight 'A' student, but he has volunteered to do so many activities for LAVC. He has been President of Tau Alpha Epsilon, President of the Student Body and president of the newly formed honor society Phi Theta Kappa. He has helped provide entertainment for a wide range of LAVC activities and never stops working on behalf of the college. Many teachers on this campus have praised for his scholarship, leadership and service."

Students Earn Honor of Speaking At Commencement

By ALLEN COCHRANE
STAR REPORTER

Three of Valley's most accomplished students were chosen May 7 to address the LAVC commencement ceremony May 22 at Monarch Stadium.

Holly Prevost, Erin Walters and Robert Lane were chosen from a group of nine students who auditioned before a committee of five Valley faculty and staff.

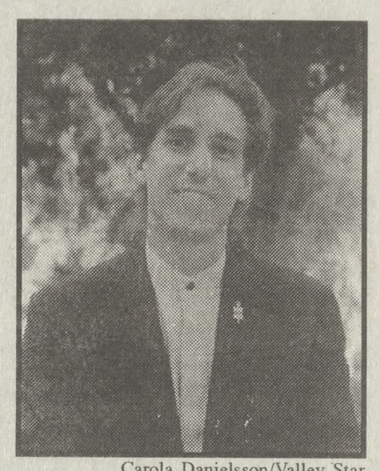
Given a criteria guideline of delivery, theme content, individual input and meeting a time restriction, the three students were chosen for their ability to eloquently express their ideas on the theme for the ceremony, "Life-Long Learning."

"We choose the best speakers, but not always the best story," committee member Jack Sterk said. "In this case we chose three because it was almost impossible to break the tie between them."

Carola Danielsson/Valley Star

Holly Prevost

Holly Prevost is graduating from L.A. Valley College with an AA in speech. While attending Valley College, Prevost served as a captain of the speech team and won national and international competitions. Prevost said she wishes to speak on the aspects of life that influence the life-long learning process. She said she will mention how sources of information affect us. Prevost will be attending Northern Arizona University in the fall on a full scholarship.



Carola Danielsson/Valley Star

Robert Lane

Robert Lane is graduating from Valley with an AA in music composition and will attend UCLA in the fall. 6While at Valley, Lane became charter president of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society during the spring '97 semester. Lane said he will focus on two concepts in his address at the commencement ceremony. Life is a teacher, an educator that will continue for us into the 21st century, he said, and Valley will supply the tools to go out into the world to meet the challenges put before us.

Erin Walters is graduating with an AA from Valley College and will attend Berkeley in the fall as an anthropology major. While attending Valley, Walters served on the Associated Student Union executive council as the Commissioner of Social and Academic Affairs. Walters will speak on the life-long learning theme and how it is a part of every aspect of our lives. Walters will also focus on how challenges outside school obligations make the achievement of graduation that much more rewarding.

Runner's Up:

Student of the Year:

1. Stefano Bloch Major: English
Campus Activities: Associated Student Union, Interclub Council, Tau Alpha Epsilon, swim team

2. Liana Vaganya Major: Music
Campus Activities: Phi Theta Kappa, Tau Alpha Epsilon, Associated Student Union, Armenian Student Association and campus police worker.

Teacher of the Year:

1. Earl Neal, Business Administration Professor

2. Roger Graham, Journalism Professor

3. Dr. Barbara Stoffer, American Cultures Department Chairwoman

Quote Collection

About Dr. Alfred Zucker...

"He is totally devoted night and day to all the students."

"Gives his whole life to the students; great teacher and a great friend. He is loved by everyone!"

"Superior teacher, total and complete dedication (seven days and week) to students. He lives totally for us. We should honor him."

"No one puts in the work for us that he does! Superior teacher."

"Treats his students with respect."

"Does so much for all of us. God bless him."

"Always helps everyone. Has done so much for so many."

"Because of his kindness and humanity and his fascinating classes, everyone wants to take him for classes. He is a lot of things to a lot of people, but to us in the honors program, he is just a very wonderful teacher and a great man. We will always remember him."

OPINION

If I Wanted Your Opinion...

By LEO "TIGER" SMITH
STAR REPORTER

It's the end of the semester as we know it, and I feel fine.

Well, the fact that Gary Kasparov lost to Deep Blue is bumming me out. That must be the seventh sign of the Apocalypse.

Yes, can't you smell it? That's the aroma of suntan lotion and freshly tapped kegs of Anchorsteam. That olfactory delight marks the arrival of three months of uneducational sundrenched debauchery. Summer is here.

Only the most insidious of obstacles lay in the way—finals.

Well, difficult as it may be, put that academic calamity out of your head. It is time to reflect.

The semester is almost out and perhaps you are all feeling a bit depressed. Hell, I am. I believe that lamaise is kind of natural, so don't fell wussy. After all, your life for the better part of nine months is school—kind of like pregnancy! Whoa, that was a significant revelation.

So anyway, like pregnancy, it follows to reason that students should experience some postpartum depression at the end of the school year. Your new friends, which you have known for months, leave and go their own way. Professors that you have studied with over and over again will not be able to go on to university with you. It's a real bummer.

Personally, I am going to miss being able to bitch about the human condition on a weekly, published basis. Still, I am relatively sure that my opinions will be missed at this school about as much as the stench of the men's bathrooms would be.

Still, there is a silver lining. A new year lies ahead and for some of us, a new school, complete with new friends, new Prof.'s and new bars. Hey, change sucks, but new brews almost make up for it.

Alas, c'est la vie.

So this is the end, my friend. My only friend, the end. I'll ramble on, sing my song, I've got to find the queen of all my dreams. Okay, I think that is enough background music.

A special thanks to the staff of the *Star* who have made the last semester seem less like hell and more like an ongoing purgatory. All cynicism aside, they are a great bunch of journalists. Plus, thank you Ed Bond and Candy Nall, two great instructors and great people. Remember you two, my grades are almost due. Did I mention how swell Candy and Ed were?

I would like to take this time to congratulate those lucky few transfer students that chose Santa Barbara for their Bachelor study. You have chosen wisely. Good luck and I'll be seeing you at the Brewery. Go Gauchos!

The rest of you can politely piss off.

Finally, I would like to thank my biggest fans, Pat Allen and Leon Marzillier. I love you too, guys. Not.

Letter from the Editor

It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve as editor-in-chief for the *Valley Star* and Los Angeles Valley College this semester.

In addition to the role as editor-in-chief, I have concurrently served as news editor, managing editor and design editor - it has been a big job. But, I must say, I have enjoyed virtually every moment of it.

I have a tremendous affection for Valley College and especially its community of terrific, interesting and inspiring people. This has been my primary motivation.

The long hours, failing equipment, tiny staff and dwindling budget have merely been challenges to conquer and tests of skill which will prove invaluable for future successes.

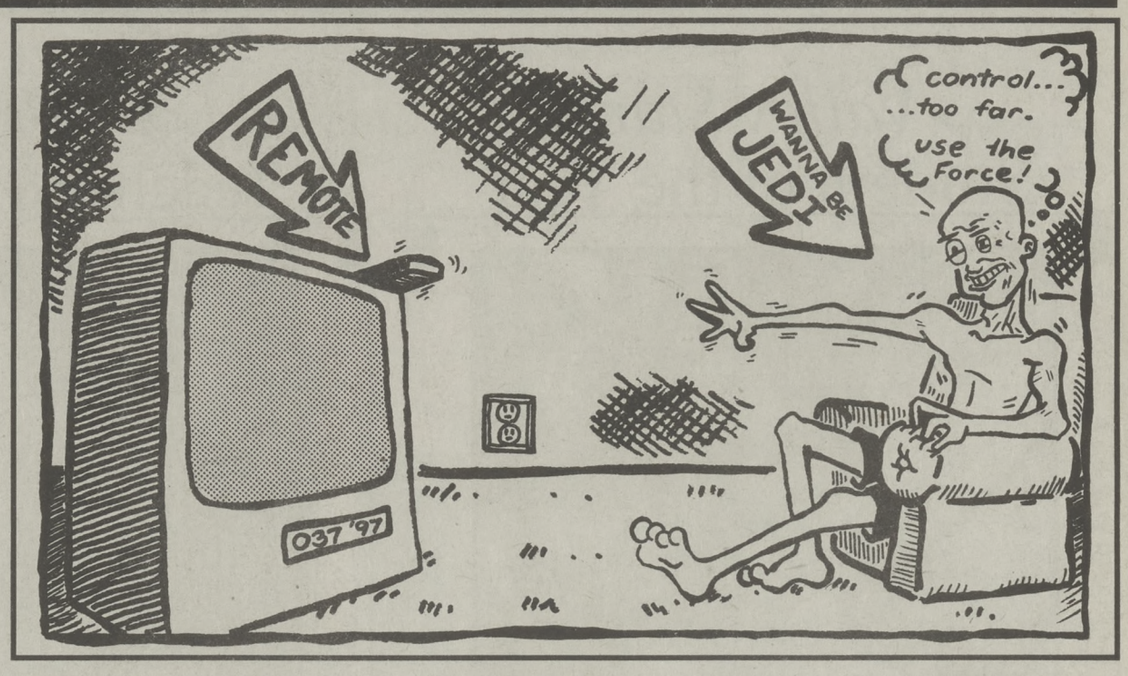
Special thanks to Dean Delahoussaye for her support and Professor Roger Graham for his encouragement. Thanks to Maria Ivey, she is a true professional and friend. Thank you Ed Bond for always being there and, last but certainly not least, all the *Star* staff - see you in the big time!

Mostly, thank you readers for your growing interest and positive response to the *Star*. My primary focus has always been to serve you. Valley College is not a group of buildings or schedule of classes, it is people - who make this college the exceptional place that it is.

I'll be passing the baton to Rebecca Fowler, who will serve as editor-in-chief for the Fall 1997 semester. Congratulations Rebecca.

In bidding farewell to Valley College, I will say to all: LIVE YOUR DREAMS!

Linda E. Thomas,
Editor-in-Chief



Technology Only Leads to Laziness

By LIZ BARRETT
STAR REPORTER

What happened to the days of opening the garage by hand or getting up off of the couch to change the channel on the television?

The rate of technology has made us forget how it used to be when we would have to move to get something done.

It is no wonder that one in three American adults is overweight.

When was the last time you sat down to a home cooked meal instead of driving up to McDonald's for a microwaved burger and grease-drenched fries?

The more everyone complains about how they have no time, the more technology will step in to lend a "helping hand." The fact is, that "helping hand" is contributing to the 300,000 deaths a year that occur because of poor diet and inactivity.

Think of how things would be if television was never invented. We might be out taking walks or bicycling. We might have a better chance of eating properly because we would not have a television to distract us with burger and pizza ads. Chances are, families would be getting along better too because of all the free time they would have to talk with one another. Imagine reading a book for two hours instead of plopping down in front of the tube on a Thursday night!

> "Elevators and escalators allow us to avoid the excrutiating pain of walking up a flight of stairs while we pay fees to walk on a treadmill."

Computers came along, and with them, the Internet. We can now go shopping in our pajamas and do our banking in our bathrobes. What a great invention, huh? NOT! No more long walks around the mall or even to the ATM machine. Within a few years, we'll be completely immobile.

Most of the time, we don't even park our own cars anymore. We just tip the valet. If not, everyone fights to get the closest spot to the entrance for fear they'll have to walk five feet to get to the door. Have we really become that lazy? Elevators and escalators allow us to avoid the excruciating pain of walking up a flight of stairs while we pay fees to walk on a treadmill.

I realize that in order for the nation to prosper, technology has to keep improving. But, while it's busy improving, we are all suffering the consequences. We're so excited when something new comes onto the market that will make our lives "quicker and easier," but then we wonder where we got that extra 10 or 15 pounds that we didn't have before.

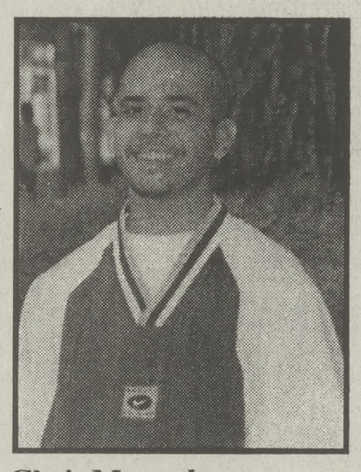
We can appreciate technology, but we must also consider the effect it is having on us. The percentage of overweight Americans grows with each passing year and I believe it is directly related to the growth of technological gadgets that help us move less.

We must find a way to reach a happy medium between the two. There must be some way to enjoy technology and still be a living, breathing, moving person.

After all, if we all die from heart disease, liver disease or heart attack, who will be around to operate all this fascinating machinery?

What was your memorable moment of Spring '97?

Maritza Campos
Major: Business
"I had the chance to work with a lot of people in my management class and work on class projects."



Chris Mercado
Major: English
"The day I met the woman that I love."

Wilma T. Monroe
Major: World Cultures and Art
"The dance performance I was in was the most memorable moment. It was very successful and everybody pulled together, a lot of camaraderie, adrenaline and excitement in these shows."

Jackie Kaufman
Major: Business Finance
"When I bought my cap and gown, I was elated. It was confirmation that I was really graduating."

Tammie Rez
Major: Science
"I learned a lot about myself, people around me and my society."

Taryn Goff
Major: Physical Therapy
"Swimming at Valley as a team is great. It gives you confidence and the coach is great."

Photo Survey By:
Alice Garabedian

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LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS

The *Valley Star* will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be left with the *Valley Star* at BJ 114 by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

Lights! Camera! Action!

Valley College cinema students shoot for the silver screen.

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Film projections flickered on nearly every wall of the Valley College motion picture studio as the steady click of sprockets echoed through the jungle of lights, cameras and, of course, lots of action.

"Lights on!"

"Lights off!"

"Lights on!"

"Let's rock and roll!"

Light meter check, again. Focus, again.

"We're gonna shoot tight. Oh god. You really missed it. Did you focus?"

"Stand here, don't move," the student director commanded. "Try to focus on the glass! The glass!"

Professor Joe Daccurso calmly stepped in.

"Can I make a suggestion?" he said. "Turn the projector off. Let's do some problem solving."

All of film making is creative problem solving, Daccurso said, whether it's equipment, film or people.

Most of what the movie going public knows about the film industry are the flashing smiles of superstarlets or who did who in Hollywood. What they may not know is, it's behind-the-scenes that really makes the scene — what makes a move happen.

The LAVC cinema students are not trying to get on the silver screen - they are trying to get behind it.

The Cinema 117 class, Creative Cinematography Techniques, is only one of, for certificate or degree.

"We teach them a professional approach to film and video production from beginning to end. Our classes are a manageable size that allows for individual attention."

Cinema 117 students said that the individual attention was one of the best aspects of the Valley program. Several said they had tried university courses and never got to do much of anything. At Valley, everyone gets loads of hands-on experience, they said.

"And, you can't beat the prices of tuition at Valley," Daccurso said. "Cost-wise, you get a lot of bang for your buck."

The class divided into teams and each member alternated who did what: camera, direction or composing the shot in a round robin of assignments.

One inside team was working on a 50/50 mirror ghost effect shot - movie jargon for super imposing a live actor.

Outside, another team was working on a special effect of over-cranking, under-cranking and super imposing a model and miniature — cinema lingo for making space ship fly.

"I want to be an indie," cinema student Kevin Estrada said. "That's about as gorilla as it gets. You know, rough cat."

Interpretation: "I want to be an independent film maker who can really kick-butt, even without top of the line equipment."

The program is a "learning by doing" operation, Daccurso said. Students are offered hands-on instruction from script writing, filming, directing, production, special effects and advanced cinematography.

"We don't train our students to be specialists in our program," Daccurso said. "We train them to be generalists and to learn how to make a film, whether feature or documentary, music video or corporate industrial production, from script to screen, wearing all hats."

Daccurso is chairman of the cinema arts department at Valley and completed his doctoral fellowship in cinema and television at USC in the launching days of George Lucas.

"You need to have a passion for it," Daccurso said. "It can't just be a job. It's more blood, sweat and tears than glory and glamour."

Twenty of his 32 years of teaching have been spent training students at Valley.

"If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere," he said. "No joke. Just like the clothes don't make the man, the fanciest equipment doesn't make the film maker."

The Valley cinema department is in the process of upgrading equipment for the fall semester with recently approved state grant funds.

"We'll be taking a long overdue major leap forward," he said.

About a third of Daccurso's students continue on to four-year universities, such as USC, UCLA and NYU, all major film schools, he said.

"They find they are as well-prepared, if not more so, than people who got their education at big name schools," he said.

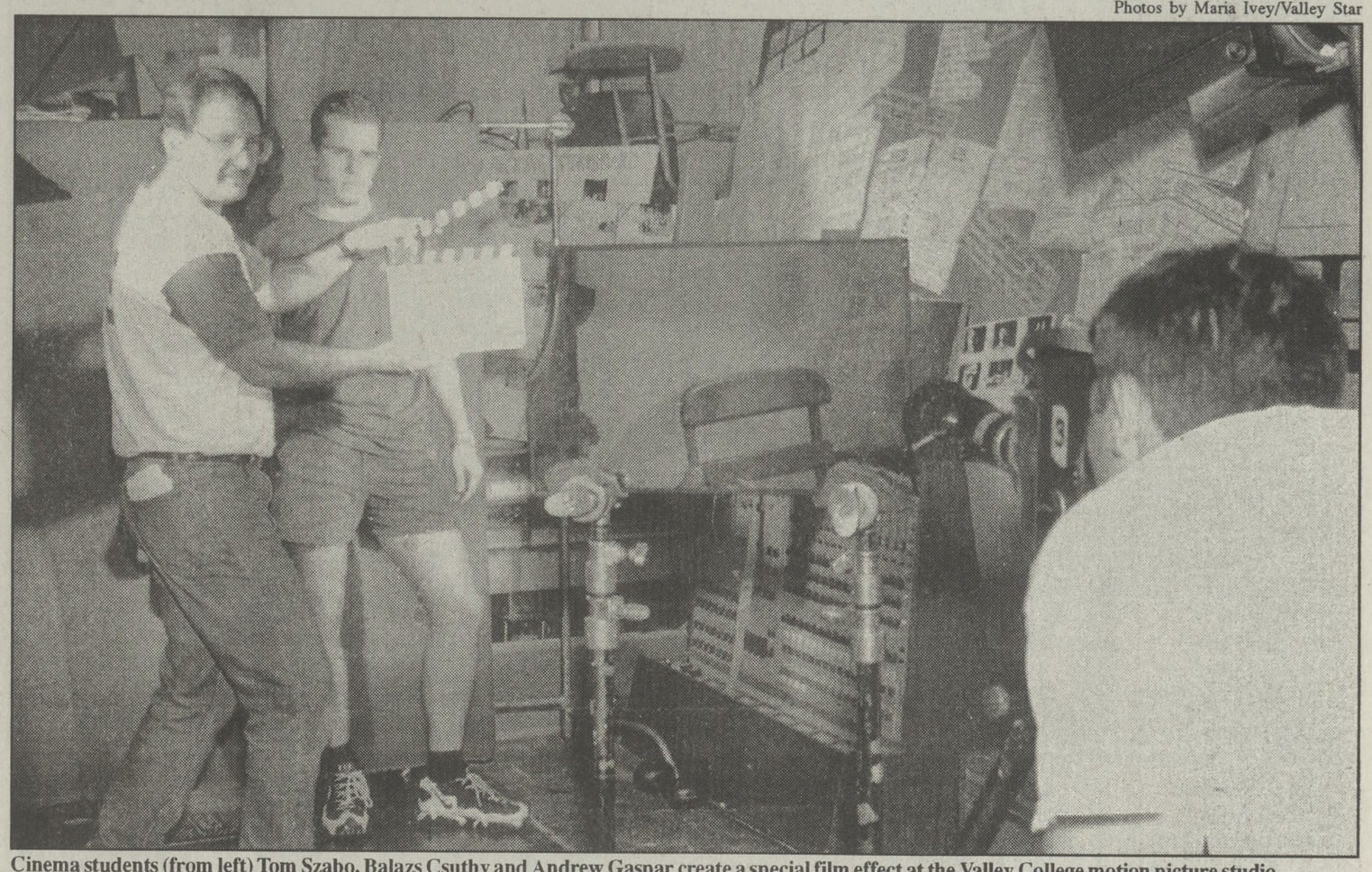
Another third of his students go directly into the industry working on camera, editing, sound recording, mixing, gaffering, gripping and all the way to production management, Daccurso said.

"They find out they can cut it on the basics they've gotten here," he said.

Daccurso's proudest moments are ongoing, he said. When he goes to see a movie, he recognizes former students' names in the tech credits.

"There is rarely a movie that I see that I don't recognize at least one name," he said.

Photos by Maria Ivey/Valley Star



Cinema students (from left) Tom Szabo, Balazs Csuthy and Andrew Gaspar create a special film effect at the Valley College motion picture studio.

Student editors Laurann Barlett and Steve Young cut the dailies.

Christopher Maul (from left) Kevin Estrada and Matt Kaufman make space ship fly.

Valley College Dancers Strut Their Stuff

■ **Campus Event: Talented hoofers kick up their heels in Monarch Hall.**

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College dancers kicked up their heels, leaped, twirled and spun across the Monarch Hall stage in the annual Spring Dance Concert held Saturday.

Energized movements of grace and freedom were expressed through 20 dances dramatically ranging from Brazilian, rock-n-roll and African to spiritual, Arabic and Latin folklorico in the two hour program.

Classical melodies, African drums and the latest hip hop hits rocked through the auditorium accompanying every move.

Hundreds of dance fans filled the hall and many sat on the edge of their seats so as not to miss a single step of talent.

"This is purely a student production," dance instructor Dr. Klyda Mahoney announced to the crowd. "They've done it all." She explained how the students entirely designed, publicized, choreographed and conducted auditions as well as danced in the production.

Lead dancer Katie Mikolysky often stole the stage in nine dance numbers with incredible undying energy. When other dancers understandably began to fade toward the end of the program, Mikolysky seemed to feed on her performances and shone brighter as the evening progressed.

"Bravo!" to all the dancers who were genuinely fabulous. What some lacked in a very few missed steps, they certainly made up in energy and entertainment.

Highlights included the fun-loving "Gonna Rock Around the Clock," tap dance number which earned whistles and wolf calls from the audience. The familiar spiritual "Eye on the Sparrow" was beautifully danced by Wilma Monroe and Inetri Brazil - an audience favorite.

"It's very freeing - dance. Dance is so healing. It's easier for me to express myself through movement. That's the way I speak."
- Wilma Monroe, student dancer

"It's very freeing - dance," Monroe said at intermission. "Dance is so healing. It's easier for me to express myself through movement. That's the way I speak."

Brazil revisited the stage in the deeply moving and exceptionally danced "Against the Wind," wonderfully choreographed by Valley student Edward Santos.

The hoofers kicked their canes in perfect unison in the marvelously entertaining "Tricky," and April Harry's bluesy choreography in "Question of You" smoked with a strong, slow beat. Harry has an astounding stage presence and an audience connection which brightly shone in all of her performances.

"It's an escape. If if feel lonely, I dance. If I feel mad, I dance. If I feel happy, I dance."
- April Harry, Student Dancer

"It's a way to express the emotion I have no words to express," Harry said after the program. "It's an escape. If I feel lonely, I dance. If I feel mad, I dance. If I feel happy, I dance."

The best danced performance is a difficult pick, but "Welcome to the Playhouse," sparkeled as one of the best presentations with speed, precision and height. "Free Your Mind," was in-your-face "bad" and radiated with sensational dynamism. Paul Morente was outstanding.

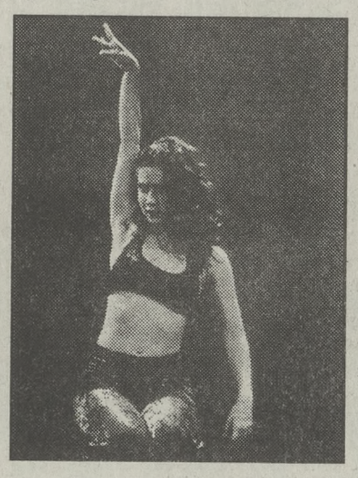
The three top dancers of the evening, Harry, Mikolyski and Jennifer Wood, teamed up in two numbers to Tony Braxton tunes. This fabulous threesome has it all and they obviously live to dance.

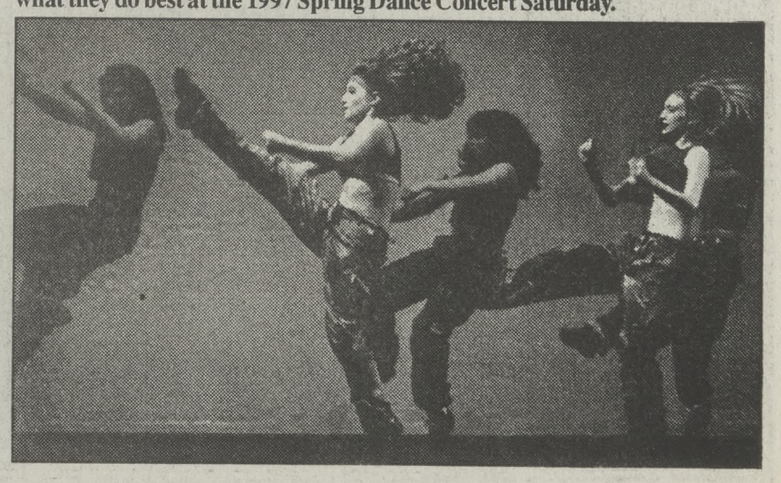
"What's most impressive about this year, is that there were so many dancers," Mahoney said. "The more dancers there are, the more difficult. Many dances had at least five dancers in them. That is an accomplishment."

Mahoney was very enthusiastic about what the Valley College dance department has to offer.

"This is one college that is giving students the opportunity to choreograph dance," she said. "Few places give that opportunity. My philosophy is to let them learn by doing it."

Photos by Maria Ivey/Valley Star





LAVC dancers Jajaira Rodriguez (above) and Katie Milolyski (below both) do what they do best at the 1997 Spring Dance Concert Saturday.

Nicolas Cage heats up the screen in ConAir

Photo courtesy of Touchstone Pictures

Summer 1997 Movie Releases

By LIZ BARRETT
FEATURE EDITOR

Addicted to Love- Meg Ryan and Matthew Broderick
Two strangers get together to get revenge on their ex's.

Batman 4- George Clooney and Chris O'Donnell
Yet another Batman movie! I guess it must be the tights.

ConAir- Nicolas Cage and John Cusack
A rip-roaring action movie keeps us on the edge of our seats.

Contact- Jodie Foster and Matthew McConaughy
Suspicious sounds are picked up from outerspace on huge satellite dishes. Aliens?

Titanic- Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet
The beginning of a season full of remakes and sequels, but promises to be good.

Men in Black- Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones
A rough 'em-up movie with two guys running around in black suits.

Jurassic Park 2- The Lost World- Jeff Goldblum and Julianne Moore
How much can you change this movie? Go to see effects!

Face/Off- John Travolta and Nicolas Cage
One man vows to become the other in this thriller.

George of the Jungle- Brendan Fraser
Disney brings to life this infamous children's book.

Gone Fishin'- Joe Pesci and Danny Glover
Two guys go searching for "the big one." (a fish! duh!)

Hercules-Disney
A classic of enormous proportions will fill the movie screen this summer.

My Best Friend's Wedding- Julia Roberts and Cameron Diaz
The groom's best friend tries her best to break up his wedding.

Nothing to Lose- Martin Lawrence and Tim Robbins
A carjacker and an ad exec get together to cause mahem.

Out to Sea- Jack Lemmon and Walter Matheau
Two seniors pose as dance instructors to go on a free cruise.

Speed 2- Jason Patric and Sandra Bullock
This sequel takes place on a ship instead of a bus.

Trial and Error- Jeff Daniels and Michael Richards
Hmmm...a courtroom comedy. Sound familiar?

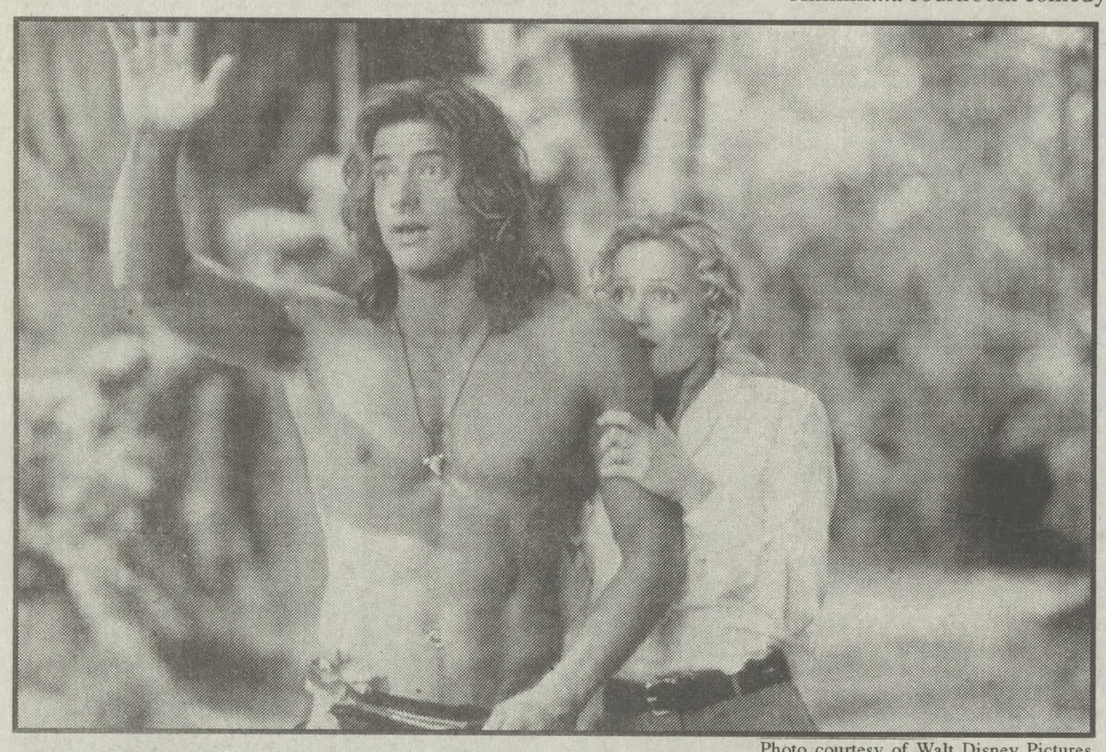


Photo courtesy of Walt Disney Pictures

Brendan Fraser and Leslie Mann trek through the woods in George of the Jungle.

Not surfing the waves in Hawaii this summer? No plans to go backpacking through Europe? Not to fear! We have a hijacked ship, out of control dinosaurs and an Enrique Iglesias concert in our very own neighborhood! So grab a friend and go see a movie or to one of the upcoming concerts.

Summer 1997 Video Releases

Daylight
One Fine Day
Star Trek: First Contact
Swingers
Ransom
Beavis and Butt-head Do America
Everyone Says I Love You
I'm Not Rappaport
Stephen King's Thinner
Shine
The Relic
People vs. Larry Flynt
Fierce Creatures
Metro
My Fellow Americans
Mother
The Mirror Has Two Faces
Michael
Marvin's Room
Jingle All the Way
Ghosts of Mississippi
Evita

Photo courtesy of Fonovisa Music Corp.

Enrique Iglesias plays Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim May 23 and 24.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Tina Turner- Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim- 5/17
Keith Sweat- Santa Barbara Bowl- 5/18
The Cardigans- Wiltern Theatre- 5/20
Enrique Iglesias- Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim- 5/23,25
ZZ Top- Greek Theatre- 5/24
Santa Barbara Bowl- 5/25
Gipsy Kings- Greek Theatre- 5/29
No Doubt- Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim- 5/31-6/1

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Summer Fun is Here!

By LEO SMITH
STAR REPORTER

Well, it is that time of year again. Time to shed the cold weather shorts in favor of the sun-friendly G-string.

Yes, summer is indeed upon us, the few, the proud, the Southern Californians. Not that any of you true Valley dudes and dudettes need an informational column on how to spend these most precious summer months, but here it is anyway.

Face it, you live in So Cal, so your best recreational choice is obviously the beach.

Surfing, kayaking, scuba diving and a myriad of other activities await you at any number of beaches along the coast. Though choosing a surfing sport is purely subjective, almost anywhere with water and sand will suffice. The best spots for diving and kayaking lie just off shore at the Channel Islands, where clear water and gnarly rock formations make for some sweet eye candy.

As for you land-lubbers, there is a virtual cornucopia of things to busy yourself with. Wheeled activities include mountain biking, rollerblading and street luge. The local surrounding mountains provide excellent opportunities for bikes, while Angeles Crest Highway is the perfect spot for speed freaks on blades and luges. Bonsai!

The local mountains also provide excellent spots for hiking and backpacking. Popular destinations include the San Gabriel and Santa Monica mountains, beautiful weekend retreats in your own backyard.

Of course, there are also the famous amusement parks of the lower state that don't need to be mentioned.

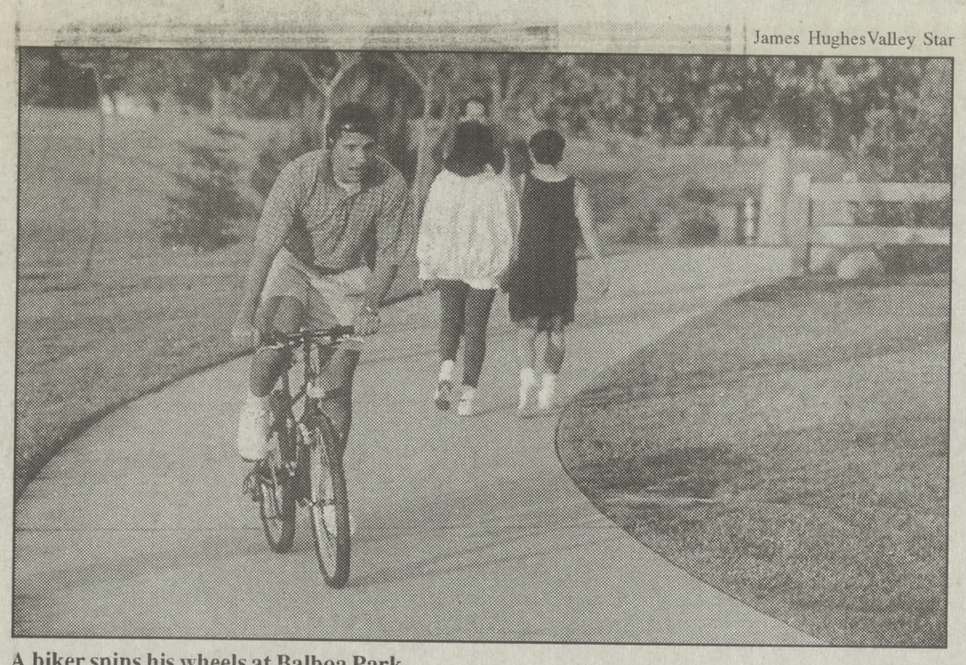
So there it is, an exceedingly brief list of school break activities. Enjoy.

Photo Layout and design by
MARIA IVEY and
LINDA E. THOMAS

Monica Lid/Special to the Star

Fun time at the Universal Citywalk for two girls at the fountain.

James HughesValley Star



A biker spins his wheels at Balboa Park.

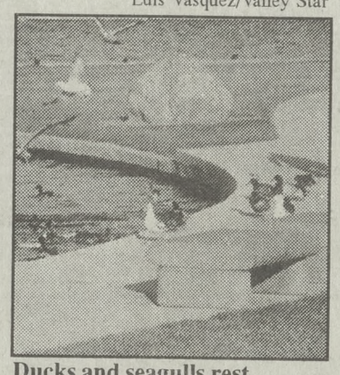
Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

Surfers, swimmers and fishermen enjoy Santa Monica beach in late afternoon.

James HughesValley Star

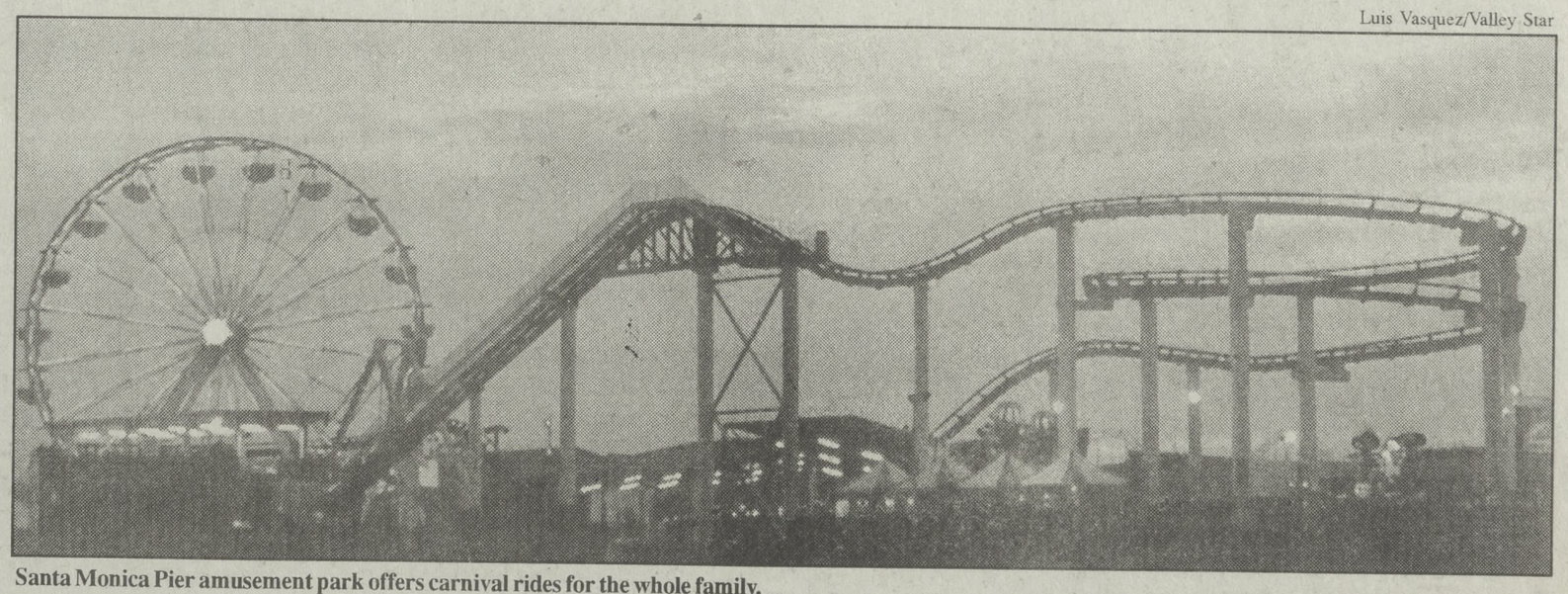
A girl swings away at Balboa Park.

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star



Ducks and seagulls rest their wings at Lake Balboa.

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star



Santa Monica Pier amusement park offers carnival rides for the whole family.

SPORTS

Gymnastic Center Offers Many Activities at Open Gym

By BEN ALTER
SPORTS EDITOR

Gymnastics, martial arts and break-dancing: What a combination. One is a sport that teaches people to do flips, the second is an excercise that consists of many styles of combat including weapons and hand to hand combat and the last is a form of dancing that was popular in the 1980's.

Where can the average person find this combination?

At Valley College. Every Tuesday and Friday, from 7-10 p.m., the Gymnastic Center has open gym time. The open gym is set up as a community service program and for $2 a night, anyone can go in and work out, dance, practice their martial arts, tumble on the mats or practice on the gymnastic apparatuses.

"I allow the individuals to do whatever they want, within reason," Valley College Instructor Mike Washlake said.

Washlake has been involved in gymnastics for about 30 years and started instructing after high school. He teaches an adult class on Monday and Thursday nights.

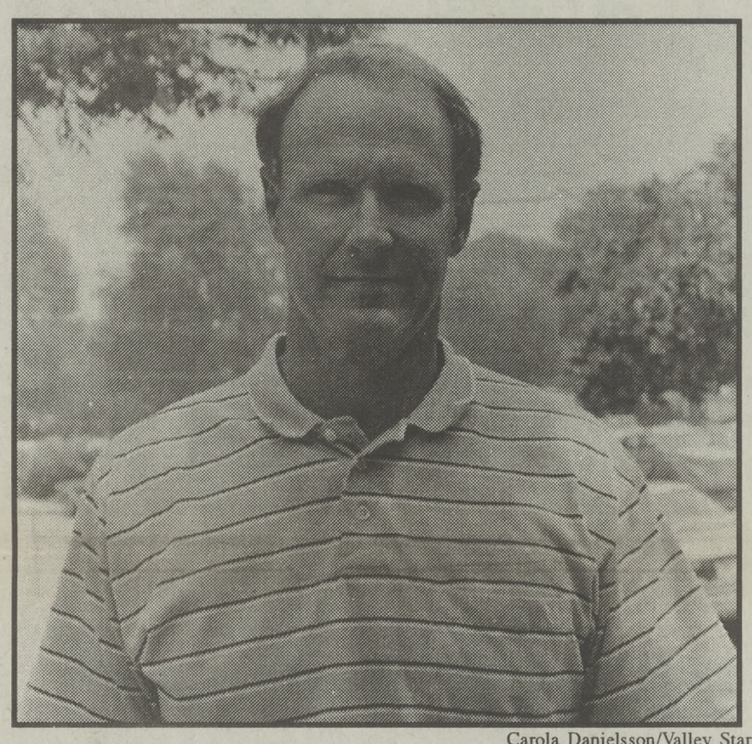
The open gym gives trained gymnasts the opportunity to practice and allows others that don't have training to learn from the veterans, he said.

"I used to be a student here, then I taught here for a couple of years," gymnast Shawn Marsh said. "Now I come for basic conditioning."

One of the gymnasts who goes to the open gym regularly is UCLA gymnast Freddy Behahin. Behahin competed in the 1996 World Games in Puerto Rico.

"I come to socialize, mainly," Behahin said. "This allows people from different environments to socialize."

Dan Southworth flips on the mats while practicing martial arts during the Gymnastic Center's open gym time. Maria Ivey/Valley Star



Carola Danielsson/Valley Star

Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero takes a break from his busy schedule.

Athletic Director Does His Stuff Behind The Scenes

By BEN ALTER
SPORTS EDITOR

Some might not think it possible for one person to be involved with 13 team sports on one campus, but guess what, it is.

Chuck Ferrero, the athletic director for Valley College is such a person. Every fall semester he is involved with the football team and men's and women's water polo teams.

Men's and women's basketball teams are added to his activities toward the middle of the fall semester. In the spring, he jumps into swimming, track, diving, softball and baseball.

Ferrero has been with Valley College for 17 years. His first 10 years were as head football coach, and his last seven have been spent as athletic director.

"I have seen many improvements in the athletic department in my time here at Valley College," Ferrero said. "These advancements are not just because of me. It's because of the excellent coaches we've been able to hire and the great advancements in administrative support."

In his college days, Ferrero played football for the UCLA Bruins, where he got his degree and teaching credentials. He also completed his master's degree there.

From UCLA, Ferrero went on and coached football at several high schools, including Los Amigos High School, where he coached football, track and wrestling.

His first job as a head coach came a few years later at Canyon High School where he coached for seven years and was the athletic director for five years.

Ferrero broke into the college ranks when he became the defensive coordinator at College of the Canyons.

After College of the Canyons, Ferrero got his start at Valley College as the head football coach for the Monarchs.

As far as the teams have gone this year, Ferrero said he is very proud of all of them.

The football team went to a bowl game and won, the men's basketball team won the Western States Conference Southern Division and went on to the third round of the playoffs.

"I was extremely proud of our women's basketball program," Ferrero said. "They finished second to College of the Canyons, who went on to play for the State Championship, and that's with losing the number one female basketball player in the state due to a knee injury."

Ferrero said that he feels that Valley College is the pearl of the Los Angeles Community College District in all aspects and the athletic department is far superior to any other athletic program in the district.

FOOTBALL'S WINNING TRADITION SHOULD CONTINUE

By ALLEN COCHRANE
STAR REPORTER

Valley College football fans look forward to another winning season with a new head coach and more of what Valley's gotten used to: success.

Expect another season of quality football, head football coach Gary Barlow said.

"We've been in the top five community colleges in the nation for the last five years and we think we'll continue on pace with that," Barlow said. "We've got plenty of talent. With the offense in capable hands and our coaches looking to bring the defense up to the offenses level, we should be pretty exciting."

Barlow said the offense will be of the same design as in the past four years. Valley's offensive line will have three returning starters: Cesar Arevalo, Dave Clark and Justin Cherry who will compete against the recruits that come into the Valley program. They'll be opening holes for returning back Antoine Smith and the new backs joining Valley.

The quarterback position has Tom Racius returning along with receivers Leaford Hackett, Kenyatta Burris and Randall Lane.

Barlow said the line backing squad should compose the backbone of the defensive corp.

"Our linebackers could be the strongest, deepest most athletic position on the team," Barlow said. "We have Damion Thompson, Marcel Desir, Bruce Henderson and Jeff Macrea returning and transfer Mark Zimmerman coming in from Idaho."

The defensive secondary will return Karalus Doyle and Courtney Blunt and the defensive line will see Bruce Henderson, Edgar Nava, Anthony Vitale and Dirk Grzelkowska battling the rookies for starting spots.

Barlow said he and his coaching staff feel very good about their recruiting efforts during the offseason.

"We have a lot of excellent players returning," Barlow said. "We also have a lot of talented new players arriving. Every year is about 50-50 on returning starters and new starters. We don't offer a scholarship. The kids are paying. We can't speculate if all the new kids will show up. Some kids wait to see where their friends are going and they go too. We don't know who we'll have till the first day of practice."

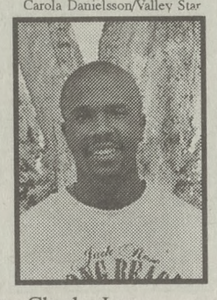
Barlow was drafted by the New York Giants, played in the World League and started coaching at Valley in 1993.

This season is Barlow's first as head coach for Valley and he has added four new coaches to his staff, two on defense and two on offense, to help him keep Valley at the top of the community college football ranks, he said.

"I'm just very thankful to be in this position," Barlow said. "To have this opportunity is great."

Athletes of the Month

Carola Danielsson/Valley Star



Name: Charles Lee

Grade Level: Sophmore

Sport: Track and Field

High School: James Monroe

Accomplishments: 1997 Conference Championship winner and broke Valley College records in the 100m and 200m. Qualified for the Southern California Finals.

Maria Ivey/Valley Star

Name: Emmy Vargas

Grade Level: Sophmore

Sport: Track and Field

High School: James Monroe

Accomplishments: Placed first in the shot put, second in the discus and fifth in the hammer throw at the 1997 Western States Conference Championship Finals.

Opinion: A View From The Bleachers

By ALLEN COCHRANE
STAR REPORTER

The level of attendance at college sports events is usually pretty easy to predict. In most cases, if you win, you can expect to see fans in the stands, Lose and the wind will whistle through the barren bleachers like a Mojave breeze blowing over a lonely Saguaro cactus.

But, as most people know, sports fans have changed through the years and the expectations of the fans are different than they used to be. If the team is not successful, then the diversions provided at the event are usually the option that make the suffering fan able to enjoy the game or meet.

Of course, with this said, the obvious direction Valley should take is to provide some of the creature comforts at events so the fans who attend leave with a pleasant memory of an overall entertainment package.

The problems at sports events at Valley are small and easily rectified.

The idea of having refreshments: cold sodas, chips or hotdogs at a sports event is certainly not new, nor is the idea of a public address announcer informing the fans of what is occurring. Neither is close to an innovative idea, but neither occurs at Valley.

Of course, the fans at Valley want to see some quality athletics when they attend an event. Sometimes they did, but sometimes the performances were sorely lacking.

Baseball did not live up to our expectations this year, but with a team of freshman, that is not surprising. However, the maturing process should be fairly well complete.

The team suffered through a trial by fire this season, but next year, there should be no excuses. The team has a majority of returning players and they need to show that the promise of this year was not misrepresented.

The softball team did have a comparatively decent record for a predominantly freshman team. Although they suffered from some fielding woes, it is a certain hitting style I question. "Slap hitter" is a designation I was not familiar with until I attended a Valley Softball game. The style involves a lot of foot movement that muddles up the basics of hitting. Keep it simple as you swing through the zone should be a standard quote from a hitting coach. This hitting stroke involves too much extra movement in the batter's box. Does it work? Obviously some hitters must have had some success with it, but by and large it would seem to be an unnecessary affectation that complicates what should be, as much as possible, a standardized skill .

The track and field team should be given all the accolades we can muster. Considering the facility they have to work with and a dirt and cinder track, the team's success at meets (held elsewhere because we don't have a facility of the quality necessary for conference events) was admirable.

The swim team had some real quality athletes this semester who came up with some excellent performances. The pool facility itself could use a little revamping, however.

While covering a meet early in the season, not only were the fans, few as they were, freezing, but the swimmers were huddled like mice to keep themselves warm as the sun sank in the west. A few heat lamps or, dare we dream, a weather tight covering, would be a blessing to the program and to the stalwart souls who brave the elements to support the green and gold.

Finally, Valley has some excellent athletes and it is an injustice to them to have so few in attendance to appreciate their talents. Making the games and meets more attractive to the fans would increase attendance and it might be a revelation to the new fans just how much fun a day in the bleachers could be.